

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION H-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 /024 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7349

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 6426

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, AR, US

SUBJECT: CONGRESSMAN HARKIN'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT VIDELA

1. WHEN I WENT TO AIRPORT LAST NIGHT (SEPT 29) TO SEE OFF FONMIN GUZZETTI, HE TOLD ME THAT PRESIDENT VIDELA HAD THAT DAY RECEIVED COPY OF A LETTER ADDRESSED TO HIM FROM CONGRESSMAN HARKIN. HE SAID LETTER, DATED SEPTEMBER 7, HAD BEEN SENT TO ARGENTINE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WHICH RECEIVED IT A FEW DAYS LATER, AND BEING UNCERTAIN AS TO WHAT TO DO WITH IT, DID NOT PUT IT INTO THE DIPLOMATIC POUCH UNTIL SEPT 15. ACCORDING TO GUZZETTI, LETTER IS VERY HARD ON ARGENTINA IN TERMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. GUZZETTI SAID PRESIDENT VIDELA WISHES TO RESPOND BUT IS PERPLEXED AS TO HOW TO DO SO, AND IS NOT CERTAIN THAT IT WOULD BE CORRECT FOR HIM TO MAKE A DIRECT REPLY TO A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS. INDEED, GUZZETTI INDICATED GOA WAS PUZZLED SINCE THEY HAD BELIEVED IT WAS THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WHICH HANDLED U.S. FOREIGN RELATIONS; HENCE, THEY WONDERED IF LETTER DID NOT IN A SENSE VIOLATE CONSTITUTIONAL NORMS IN THE U.S. GUZZETTI INDICATED PRESIDENT VIDELA WOULD APPRECIATE OUR ADVICE AS TO WHAT HE SHOULD DO WITH THE LETTER.

2. IN INDICATED TO GUZZETTI THAT IT WOULD NOT BE FEASIBLE TO GIVE SUCH ADVICE WITHOUT HAVING SEEN THE LETTER. GUZZETTI SUGGESTED THAT I ASK FONMINISTRY FOR A COPY, AND I HAVE DONE SO THIS MORNING.

3. GUZZETTI INDICATED HE WOULD BE STAYING AT THE WALDORF TOWERS AND LOOKED FORWARD TO SEEING SECRETARY KISSINGER, OTHER OFFICERS OF DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND OTHER AGENCIES OF U.S.

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GOVERNMENT.

4. I WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS THE DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE
ON THE HARKIN LETTER. I WILL TRANSMIT SUBSTANCE OF THE
LETTER WHEN WE HAVE A COPY IN HAND.
HILL

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 30 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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